

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior claim versions and listings.

1. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A medical equipment rental method comprising:

a rentee method having:

an examination category inputting step of ~~inputting~~ receiving an input of a
category of a ~~medical~~ an endoscopic examination on the basis of diagnosis results;

an examination date and time specifying step of ~~specifying an~~ receiving a
specified examination date and time for the ~~medical~~ endoscopic examination; and

a rental order generating step of ~~generating an order for rental of medical~~
endoscope equipment required in the ~~medical~~ endoscopic examination at the date and time
specified in the examination date and time specifying step; and

a rental service method having:

~~a medical~~ an endoscope equipment securing step of managing securing of the
~~medical~~ endoscope equipment required in accordance with ~~an~~ the order generated in the rental
order generating step;

~~a medical~~ an endoscope equipment dispatching step of managing dispatching of
the ~~medical~~ endoscope equipment secured in the equipment securing step, to the requesting
hospital, at the date and time specified in the examination date and time specifying step; and

a reprocessing step of managing recovering the medical endoscope equipment
after rental has terminated and reprocessing the ~~medical~~ endoscope equipment, wherein the
reprocessing includes at least one of cleaning the endoscope equipment, and sterilizing the
endoscope equipment.

8. (Currently Amended) The medical equipment rental method according to claim 7, wherein the rental order generating step comprises:

a reservation information generating step of generating reservation information including date and time ~~information~~ specified in the examination date and time specifying step.

9. (Currently Amended) The medical equipment rental method according to claim 8, wherein the medical-endoscope equipment securing step comprises:

a reservation information receiving step of receiving the reservation information generated in the reservation information generating step;

a reservation judging step of judging whether or not the required medical-endoscope equipment can be secured at the date and time specified in the examination date and time specifying step; and

a reservation acceptance information generating step of generating information indicating that acceptance of a ~~the reservation information has been completed~~, in cases where it has been ~~judged in-when~~ the reservation judging step judges that the required medical-endoscope equipment can be secured at the date and time specified in the examination date and time specifying step.

10. (Currently Amended) The medical equipment rental method according to claim 7, wherein the medical-endoscope equipment securing step secures the medical-endoscope equipment required in accordance with the order generated in the rental order generating step, by referring to an examination category correspondence table which associates categories of medical-endoscope examination with types of medical-endoscope equipment.

11. (Currently Amended) The medical equipment rental method according to claim 8, wherein the medical-endoscope equipment securing step secures the medical-endoscope equipment

required in accordance with the order generated in the rental order generating step, by referring to an examination category correspondence table which associates categories of ~~medical~~ endoscope examination with types of ~~medical-endoscope~~ equipment.

12. (Currently Amended) The medical equipment rental method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~medical-endoscope~~ equipment securing step secures the ~~medical-endoscope~~ equipment required in accordance with the order generated in the rental order generating step by referring to an examination category correspondence table which associates categories of ~~medical-endoscope~~ examination with types of ~~medical-endoscope~~ equipment.

13. (Currently Amended) An endoscope equipment rental system comprising:

a rentee system having:

an endoscopic examination category input section ~~for inputting~~ receiving an input of a category of an endoscopic examination on the basis of diagnosis results;

an examination date and time specifying section ~~for specifying an~~ receiving a specified examination date and time for the endoscopic examination; and

a rental order generating section ~~for generating~~ an order for rental of endoscope equipment required in the endoscopic examination at the date and time specified by the examination date and time specifying section; and

a rental service system having:

an endoscope equipment securing section ~~for managing~~ securing of the endoscope equipment required in accordance with ~~an-the~~ order generated by the rental order generating section;

an endoscope equipment dispatching section ~~for managing~~ dispatching of the endoscope equipment secured by the equipment securing section, to ~~the a~~ requesting hospital, at the date and time specified by the examination date and time specifying section; and

a reprocessing section ~~for managing~~ recovering the endoscope equipment after rental has terminated and reprocessing the endoscope equipment, wherein the reprocessing includes at least one of cleaning the endoscope equipment and sterilizing the endoscope equipment.

14. (Currently Amended) The endoscope equipment rental system according to claim 13, wherein the rental order generating section of the rentee system comprises:

a reservation information generating section ~~for generating~~ reservation information including the date and time ~~information~~-specified by the examination date and time specifying section and information about the endoscope equipment required in the endoscopic examination; and

a reservation information transmission section ~~for transmitting~~ the reservation information generated by the reservation information generating section, to the rental service system.

15. (Currently Amended) The endoscope equipment rental system according to claim 14, wherein the endoscope equipment securing section of the rental service system comprises:

a reservation information receiving section ~~for receiving~~ the reservation information from the reservation information transmission section;

a reservation judging section ~~for judging~~ whether or not the required endoscope equipment can be secured at the date and time specified by the examination date and time specifying section; and

a reservation acceptance information transmission section ~~for transmitting information~~ indicating ~~that acceptance of a~~ the reservation has been completed information, to the rentee system, ~~in cases where~~ when the reservation judging section ~~has judged~~ judges that the required endoscope equipment can be secured at the date and time specified by the examination date and time specifying section.

16. (Currently Amended) The endoscope equipment rental system according to claim 13, wherein the endoscope equipment securing section of the rental service system comprises:

an examination category correspondence storing section for storing an examination category correspondence table which associates categories of endoscopic examination with types of endoscope equipment~~[[;]]~~, the endoscope equipment required in accordance with the order generated by the rental order generating section being secured by referring to ~~this~~ the examination category correspondence table.

17. (Currently Amended) The endoscope equipment rental system according to claim 14, wherein the endoscope equipment securing section of the rental service system comprises:

an examination category correspondence storing section ~~for storing~~ an examination category correspondence table which associates categories of endoscopic examination with types of endoscope equipment~~[[;]]~~, the endoscope equipment required in accordance with the order generated by the rental order generating section being secured by referring to ~~this~~ the examination category correspondence table.

18. (Currently Amended) The endoscope equipment rental system according to claim 15, wherein the endoscope equipment securing section of the rental service system comprises:

an examination category correspondence storing section ~~for storing~~ an examination category correspondence table which associates categories of endoscopic examination with types

of endoscope equipment~~[[;]],~~ the endoscope equipment required in accordance with the order generated by the rental order generating section being secured by referring to ~~this the~~ examination category correspondence table.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An endoscope equipment rental system comprising:

a rentee system having:

examination category input means for inputting a category of an endoscopic examination on the basis of diagnosis results;

examination date and time specifying means for specifying an examination date and time for the endoscopic examination; and

rental order generating means for generating an order for rental of endoscope equipment required in the endoscopic examination at the date and time specified by the examination date and time specifying means; and

a rental service system having:

endoscope equipment securing means for securing the endoscope equipment required in accordance with ~~an the~~ order generated by the rental order generating means;

endoscope equipment dispatching means for dispatching the endoscope equipment secured by the equipment securing means, to ~~the a~~ requesting hospital, at the date and time specified by the examination date and time specifying means; and

reprocessing means for recovering the endoscope equipment after rental has terminated and reprocessing the endoscope equipment, wherein the reprocessing includes at least one of cleaning the endoscope equipment and sterilizing the endoscope equipment.